

Sustainability, Energy and Green Business

Includes goals from these **Creative Communities Reports**:

- Establish Manchester as a Leader in Sustainability and Green Business
 - Establish Middlebury as a Pioneer in Alternative Energy Production and Management
 - Promote Environmental Initiatives that Define Randolph as a Green Community
 - Sustainable Rutland
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- Events around the state offer plenty of opportunities to network with others who are also tackling sustainability at a community level. To find out about major events, check the calendars of groups like the **Vermont Environmental Consortium**, **Renewable Energy Vermont**, **Northeast Organic Farmer's Association**, and the **Environmental Law Center at Vermont Law School**.
 - 'Sustainability' is a tremendously broad concept. Some communities begin from a broad base by offering community forums around particular big issues. For example, Williston designed a forum where community members could speak with representatives from several groups about how to lower their carbon footprint. This event was co-sponsored by the **Chittenden Solid Waste District**, **10% Challenge**, **Vermont Earth Institute**, and **Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District**.
 - Another place to look for groups tackling a broad perspective on sustainability is college campuses. Colleges have a contained community and often use this unique situation to pilot different approaches to being green. **Dartmouth College** (dartmouth.edu/~sustain/), **Middlebury College** Department of Environmental Affairs: middlebury.edu/administration/enviro/, **University of Vermont** Office of Sustainability at: <http://www.uvm.edu/~sustain/>.
 - Several other communities in the Creative Communities Program have undertaken environmental initiatives. **Randolph** and **Rutland** (Tara Kelly at 802-775-0871) began with a general environmental interest. **Middlebury** is undertaking environmental work tied directly to alternative energy. Their reports give background information on the projects and also contacts. Another community known for sustainability work is **Burlington**, particularly their legacy project (<http://burlingtonlegacyproject.org/>).
 - Some sustainability projects don't require much funding. However, other projects will require start up investment and there are grants available. The **New England Grassroots Environmental Fund** supports grassroots organizations with an environmental focus. grassrootsfund.org. NEGEF has funded many community initiatives, and a number of energy and climate action groups in and out of Vermont. Contacting NEGEF and leaders of groups that have received their assistance can generate a long list of possible strategies.
 - The **Vermont Peak Oil Network (VPON)** is full of information on building sustainable communities: vtpeakoil.net/index.html.
 - The **Vermont Natural Resources Council** has information on a variety of environmental initiatives, along with staff that can provide technical assistance in some areas. Visit vnrc.org/.

Waste Management/Recycling

- For the particular issue of recycling and solid waste management, a first stop for information on all the possibilities can be zero waste campaigns.
 - The **Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District** has zero waste materials online at: cvswmd.org/.

- The **Toxics Action Center**, (toxicsaction.org/) with an office in Vermont, has partnered with CVSWMD to develop resources for zero waste initiatives.
- The **Association of Vermont Recyclers** has established its reputation for finding fun, creative ways to educate Vermonters about recycling and other waste issues. Visit their website at: vtrecyclers.org.
- The University of Vermont can offer creative ideas for recycling and re-use. **Erica Spiegel** leads recycling efforts (802-656-4191).

Energy

- Some towns like **Manchester** and **Hinesburg** have done early projects with lightbulb exchange programs, others have set goals to shut down idling school buses, worked toward the transition of town vehicles to biofuels, or improved electric efficiency in all town-owned buildings. To form a sense of how your community fits into the larger scheme of energy production in Vermont, refer to the Energy Digest from the **Vermont Council on Rural Development** (<http://www.vtrural.org/files/Vermont%20Energy%20Digest%204-071.pdf>).
- Middlebury town has already started to investigate hydropower options for the river. A basic introduction to the regulatory process for hydro is available from the **Agency of Natural Resources** at anr.state.vt.us/dec/fed/damsafety/hp_workshop.htm.
- The **Addison County Relocalization Network (ACoRN)** is designing its own local initiative using as a template the Energy Independence Plan from Willits, CA.
- Also see the **Vermont Peak Oil Network (VPON)** vtpeakoil.net/index.html.
- Colleges often provide good examples of communities that undertake a transformation of their energy footprint. **Dartmouth College** (dartmouth.edu/~sustain/), **Middlebury College** Department of Environmental Affairs: middlebury.edu/administration/enviro/, the **Energy Institute** at **Vermont Law School** <http://www.vermontlaw.edu/x3663.xml>. The **University of Vermont** has also launched significant energy projects, including on-campus energy production and biodiesel use. Their environmental coordinator is **Gioia Thompson** (Gioia.Thompson@uvm.edu, 802-656-3803)

Green Business

- A general resource for Green Businesses in Vermont is the **Vermont Environmental Consortium**, directed by **Daniel Hecht** (vecgreenvalley.org/; (802) 485-2455).
- **Marlboro Graduate Center** now also has an MBA in sustainable business. They could be a resource for both information and (if needed) interns gradcenter.marlboro.edu/academics/MBA.html. The **Snelling Center for Government** (<http://www.snellingcenter.org/>) is affiliated with UVM and places graduate students in policy-related internships (Phone: (802) 859-3090).
- **Deb Sachs** (865-7330) of the **10% Challenge** (<http://www.10percentchallenge.org/>) helps facilitate community planning around energy efficiency and development throughout VT. **Efficiency Vermont** (<http://www.encyvermont.com/pages/>) could lend expertise to consult with the committee on setting short and long-term goals.

Compiled by the **Vermont Council on Rural Development**, 802-223-6091, www.vtrural.org